

The AMERICAN OBSERVER

A free, virtuous and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe

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Plans for Recovery Pushed by President

Banking, Economy, Farm and Unemployment Relief, Security Regulation Taken up

FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDERED

More Measures Carrying Out Platform Pledges Will Be Introduced

As the extraordinary session of the Seventy-third Congress nears the half-way mark of its existence, it is appropriate to take stock of the accomplishments of the first period of the Roosevelt administration. Within five weeks of his accession to the presidency, Franklin D. Roosevelt had established a record of achievement unprecedented in the annals of our national history. Almost the moment he took the oath of office, the president set in motion the wheels of a program designed to cope with the acute crisis then confronting the country and to lay the groundwork for a lasting recovery from a depression of more than three years' standing. He issued emergency decrees to deal with the immediate banking situation. He conferred with members of his cabinet on a plan for national action. He sent out a call to members of the new Congress to assemble in Washington to enact a sweeping program of legislation. For more than a month, he has been pounding away at his program, requesting Congress to enact measure after measure to put the country on its feet again. The following are some of the major achievements of this first period.

Banking and Economy

Banking. The day following his inauguration, President Roosevelt issued a proclamation closing all the banks of the nation for a period of four days in order to prevent further bank failures, arrest the hoarding of gold and currency, and put a stop to the drain of gold from the United States. He also declared a complete embargo on the exportation of gold, forbade anyone from converting currency into gold or silver, and prohibited the payment of money by any bank. These banking restrictions, by a later proclamation, were extended several days pending enactment of a banking program by the newly assembled Congress.

The day Congress met, it passed a bill granting almost dictatorial powers over the banks to the president. Under this authority, Mr. Roosevelt took steps to reopen the banks as rapidly as possible. He ordered all banks to be examined in order to determine their soundness. Those found to be in a sound condition were allowed to open their doors at once. Those which were not in a sound condition were obliged to remain closed and federal agents, or "conservators," were appointed to reorganize their affairs. Several thousand banks, having deposits of three or four billion dollars, are still closed under these orders. Early this month, the president issued another order calling in all gold, failure to comply with which will be punished by heavy fines and imprisonment. Permanent banking reforms, designed to put all banks in an impregnable position, are now under consideration by the presi-

(Concluded on page 8)



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RAMSAY MACDONALD AND EDOUARD HERRIOT

First among the foreign statesmen who will visit Washington to discuss world problems with President Roosevelt. (See page 4.)

Mental Housecleaning

Some one has said that at least once a year every one should sort out all his possessions and burn any article that is neither useful nor beautiful. Thus might one keep his house or his room from being cluttered with the useless trash that somehow accumulates and settles itself in nooks and corners until, hallowed with age, it takes on the sanctity of an heirloom and establishes itself as a permanent encumbrance. Perhaps there is even greater need for an occasional mental housecleaning. Our minds, as well as our homes, become littered with furnishings which are outworn and should long ago have been discarded. We cling to ideas and prejudices which may have been formed during childhood. They are out of place in the environment of adult ideas in which they now find themselves. Many of them are not only useless but ugly and defacing. They hinder the formation of wholesome ideas and opinions. The childish prejudices concerning nations, races, religions and political parties occupy so large a section of many minds that they prevent a clear and unbiased view of social and political facts. The Nazis are giving an ugly demonstration of what race prejudice may do to a people. The accusations they are making against the Jews sound unbelievably infantile to sane persons at a distance. But we in America must not feel too self-complacent. We are too often governed by outworn conceptions of race and politics and religion. One scarcely dares to argue for an economic policy on the ground that it will be helpful to foreign peoples. He must prove that it will be helpful to our own country, and if he can do that no questions are asked as to the fate of foreigners. Nor is it in public relations alone that we cling to outworn practices and concepts. We all tend to conservatism in the fashioning of our individual lives. We are too often actuated by illogical motives in personal and social matters. Prejudices which would not bear the light of candid examination too often govern conduct. They twist and distort the vision. They render sane judgments impossible. But like the rubbish which litters so many untidy homes, they are retained because age has cast a halo about them. They are sanctified by long tradition, and are clung to with a tenacity that should make truth green with envy. It requires courage and intelligence to clean house thoroughly, especially the house of the mind, but the rewards are a cleanliness and sanity of spirit without which there is no such thing as a good citizen or a good life.

Nazis Oppress Foes in Bitter Campaign

Jews, Communists and Other Hitlerite Enemies Suffer Violence and Discrimination

CHANCELLOR EXTENDS POWER

Moves to Establish Complete Dictatorial Authority Over Germany

It is now possible to form a reasonably accurate picture of what has been taking place in Germany since the election of March 5. For a time it was difficult to obtain exact information because of the rigid censorship imposed in the country by the Nazis. Muzzling of the press, however, has not prevented authentic reports from reaching foreign countries so that by now one is able to gain a fair impression of what has occurred.

Since the Election

The election, as will be remembered, was called at the instance of President von Hindenburg, who on January 28 dismissed Chancellor von Schleicher and two days later appointed Adolf Hitler in his place. In order to test the reaction of the people and choose a new Reichstag to supplant the previous one in which von Schleicher had tried unsuccessfully to obtain a majority, the polls were thrown open on March 5. When the ballots were counted, Hitler's National Socialist party had obtained 288 seats and their Nationalist allies 53, giving Hitler control over 52 per cent of the seats. By this slender margin the German people signified their approval of the fiery Nazi chieftain who for years had been clamoring for power. His goal reached, he prepared to obtain complete mastery over Germany.

As soon as the result of the election became known, Hitler's organized followers, the Storm Troops—an organization of young Nazis numbering about half a million—began to intensify the campaign they had already begun against Jews, Communists and other enemies of Hitler. Suppression of these elements had been one of Hitler's most emphatic campaign promises. He has a bitter hatred of Jews and has transmitted his feeling to his followers. Immediately, therefore, attacks upon German Jewry became the order of the day. Many of them were beaten and mistreated in almost every conceivable way. Some of the stories with regard to Jewish persecution were doubtless exaggerated. This was bound to result from the censorship which made the communication of accurate reports difficult. In the main, however, the accounts which have trickled through furnish ample evidence that the Jews have suffered much at the hands of the Nazis.

But while the plight of the Jews in Germany has attracted the lion's share of attention it is important to point out that they alone have not been singled out for persecution by the Nazis. Other enemies of the Hitlerites, principally the Communists, but also the Social Democrats, have fallen prey to violence of the Storm Troops. We have, for example, the following vivid account, an excerpt from a letter written to the *New Republic* by a reliable correspondent in Berlin who managed to elude the censors:

At the end of the Friedrichstrasse, not far from the Socialist headquarters, is one of the Storm Troop barracks. For several days during the week after the elections the neighbors and passers-by heard the screams and moans of people inside, until at last demands were made that the regular police take action. The police broke into the place and in the barracks they found seventy Communists, some dead, some nearly dead, and all badly beaten. In the Hedemannstrasse barracks there are said to be more than two hundred and fifty Communists imprisoned. In Berlin and throughout Germany it is difficult to estimate how many defenseless people have been put to death by torture.

Foreign Protests

It is, however, the attacks upon the Jews which have drawn world-wide comment. As soon as the news of the anti-Jewish campaign became known abroad, the Nazis were made the object of wholesale denunciation. The most vigorous protests came from the United States, from prominent Jewish and Christian leaders. On March 27 a great protest meeting took place at the Madison Square Garden in New York. It was attended by 55,000 people. Similar, though less spectacular, demonstrations were held elsewhere throughout the month. The American government was besieged to take action and to loosen immigration restrictions in order that fleeing Jews might find refuge in this country. At the same time Germany's business with foreigners began to suffer. Orders placed in Germany were cancelled as merchants refused to do business with the country and German steamships languished for want of cargoes. Tourists who had planned to visit Germany changed their minds and made arrangements to spend the time in other countries.

Response

The Nazis were not slow in responding to these foreign protests and reprisals. Authorities in Berlin entered vigorous denials of brutality toward the Jews and contended that foreigners had not the right to interfere with their domestic affairs. It was declared that foreign demonstrations would only mean greater discomfort to German Jewry. To carry out this threat a systematic boycott of the Jews was prepared. (This, at least, was the reason given, although there was evidence that such a campaign had been under preparation for some time.) It was at first decided to conduct the boycott for an indefinite period of time but later it was said that it would be limited to one day with the warning that it would be renewed if foreign protests did not cease.

The boycott took place as scheduled on April 1. Jewish shops were picketed so that customers could not enter. Each Jewish shop window bore the inscription: "It is forbidden to purchase in this Jewish shop." And on each window was affixed what was known as the "Jew sign," a round yellow blot on a black background. The homes and offices of Jewish lawyers and professional men were similarly treated and, in general, Germans were forbidden to have any contact whatsoever with Jews. Unexpectedly, there was a marked absence of physical violence during the boycott and the day passed rather quietly.

Tactics Change

About this time the Nazis began to abandon their more strenuous tactics. Foreign protests, apparently, were having their effect, and it became evident that Germany was losing heavily by the campaign. Business within the country was seriously hampered and foreign trade badly crippled. The Nazis began to see that their enthusiastic repression did not pay. However, despite this change of policy, discrimination against Jews continues. Those who have held positions of importance and honor in the government, or in the courts, are being displaced. Numerous Jewish business men have been forced to resign their connections with their firms or see them ruined. In brief, the Jews are being deprived of many of their rights as citizens. Life for them has become almost unbearable.

It is impossible to say how far Hitler will go in his campaign against his enemies.

He has promised, as stated, to suppress the Jews. He considers that they are at the bottom of all the trouble Germany has had since the war. He believes that Germany should be purged of all people who differ in race. Similarly, he is taking determined action against Communists and Socialists. Thousands of them have been herded into concentration camps where they are being kept in imprisonment. These camps are beginning to dot the German countryside.

The Reichstag

While these terrorist tactics have received greater publicity than other events which have taken place in Germany it is important not to overlook the manner in which Hitler has been strengthening his hold upon the country. He has gradually extended his power until it has come to include every branch of German life.

act was passed empowering the chancellor to enact laws by decree. The chancellor need not even be bound by the constitution which now is hardly more than a relic. The president has been stripped of practically all his power. It is the chancellor who is the dominating factor in Germany. The Reichstag will not meet again until 1937.

Hitler did not wait long before strengthening his grip upon the nation. At a cabinet session held on April 7 it was decided to reorganize the entire governmental structure of the German states. Heretofore, Germany has been divided into a number of states which enjoyed a considerable degree of self-government. Each state had its own parliament and its own executives. All this will now be done away with. Parliamentary government in the states will be abolished. They will

vice-chancellor and chief representative of the Nationalist party, who had been at the head of the Prussian government, has been ousted. He made every attempt to retain this position in order to assure the Nationalists a vital part in the government. But Hitler has apparently become confident that he no longer needs the assistance of the Nationalists and was not afraid to displace von Papen. This may be the first step in the expulsion of all Nationalists from the cabinet. It is a decided victory for the Nazis.

Power Extended

But Dictator Hitler has not been satisfied with merely extending his control over the German government. He has moved to establish a virtual dictatorship over German industry. Pressure has been brought to bear to force the resignation of the board of directors of the Federation of German Industries. This organization, dominated by Germany's industrial leaders, has been a tremendous force in Germany during the last fourteen years. It has had German industry under its control and has been described as being stronger than the government. Now that it has been captured by the Nazis they will be in a position to influence Germany's entire industrial activity. It is believed that, as a result, further reorganizations will take place, perhaps ending in a dictatorship over German business as complete as that which exists in Italy through the government-controlled syndicates.

Labor Unions

In addition to this, Chancellor Hitler has broken down the trade unions and will revamp them under governmental supervision. German workmen, therefore, will not be in a position to enforce their wishes through their organizations but will have to be subject to the will of the government. Finally, steps have been taken to place agricultural workers and peasants under similar control.

It is thus apparent that Hitler is endeavoring to fashion a complete and rigid dictatorship for Germany. Every form of enterprise, from now on, will be dominated by the government. Complete details as to how the reorganization, or co-ordination, as it is called, will be worked out are not yet available. It is believed that in many respects Hitler will take Mussolini's Italy as his model. Certainly he plans to dominate Germany to an extent unsurpassed, even by Mussolini himself.

DIRIGIBLES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES

The recent Akron disaster again brings up the question as to the desirability of airships of this type for military purposes. Because of the many wrecks which have occurred to dirigibles in recent years, a number of countries have abandoned them as impracticable. And many people in the United States became skeptical of them after the destruction of the *Shenandoah* in 1925. It was cruising over Caldwell, Ohio, when, without much warning, a terrific gale arose, tore the huge ship apart, causing the deaths of fourteen persons and seriously injuring a number of others. And now since several times as many persons lost their lives in the Akron wreck, there is considerable controversy over the practicability of these aircrafts. It is believed by certain experts, however, that the Akron was too heavy and they say that it should not have been put into service. A congressional investigation of the cause of the wreck and of the actual value of dirigibles from a military standpoint will take place soon.

Those close to President Roosevelt say that he will wait awhile before selecting an ambassador to Germany. Much will depend upon the course of events in Germany during the next few weeks under the Hitler régime, it is thought, as to President Roosevelt's choice of an ambassador.



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CHANCELLOR HITLER ADDRESSING THE REICHSTAG CONVENED IN THE OLD GARRISON CHURCH IN POTSDAM

The Reichstag was called into session in Potsdam on March 21. It could not convene in its own building in Berlin since that structure was burned during the electoral campaign—by Communists, so the Nazis charged. It is interesting that Potsdam should have been selected. This city was always closely associated with the Germany of the Hohenzollerns before the war. It was symbolic of Germany's former military power. There was ample significance, therefore, in its choice as the meeting place for the new Reichstag. It meant that, for the present at least, German democracy is a thing of the past.

This interpretation was substantiated two days later when the Reichstag voted to confer full dictatorial powers on Hitler for a period of four years. An enabling

each be ruled by a governor appointed by the chancellor and responsible to him and not to the people. The governors in turn will name premiers who will choose members to their cabinets. These dignitaries will have to answer for their acts to Hitler's governors. The people will have no voice in the conducting of their affairs. The states will be nothing more than provinces.

Prussia

Adolf Hitler himself is to function as the governor of Prussia, the largest German state which comprises two-thirds of the country. As premier he has named Captain Hermann Goering, cabinet member without portfolio and Hitler's first lieutenant. Colonel Franz von Papen,



ERE is the record of Congress for the week ending April 11. Received President Roosevelt's message asking creation of a Tennessee Valley Authority to rehabilitate the Tennessee river drainage basin, including Muscle Shoals.

SENATE. Passed District of Columbia beer bill after conference. Passed Black bill for thirty-hour week, but Senator Trammel (Dem., Florida) made a motion to reconsider it, in order to add his amendment extending the bill's provisions to imported articles. Debated administration farm bill, with farm mortgage refinancing measure as an amendment. Senator Black (Dem., Alabama) introduced a bill for a six-hour day for railroad workers. Senator Borah (Rep., Idaho) introduced a bill to restrict short selling of stocks. Senate Banking Committee drafted a bank reform bill in accord with the Roosevelt plan.

HOUSE. Passed District of Columbia beer bill after conference, and sent it to the president. Passed District of Columbia appropriation bill. Passed Joint Resolution to appoint a committee to investigate the Akron disaster. Voted change in House rules to prohibit introduction of celebrities from the gallery. Debated farm mortgage refinancing bill. Labor Committee reported favorably on thirty-hour week bill.

A Vast Project

April 10 President Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress, urging this body to enact immediate legislation for the development of the Tennessee valley. Using the entire Tennessee basin as a huge laboratory, Mr. Roosevelt wants the government to carry out a large program of reforestation, flood control, elimination of marginal land, and power development. Mr. Roosevelt thinks that such a program would revolutionize agriculture and industry throughout the South. The whole plan would be woven around Muscle Shoals, the government-owned power project, which harnesses the currents of the Tennessee river. Power produced at Muscle Shoals and at other dams and reservoirs on the streams involved would be operated and sold by the federal government, states or cities, providing electricity at a much lower cost than at present.

Mr. Roosevelt's object in urging this project at the present time is to provide work for thousands of unemployed. However, he believes that the cheap power to be provided by this program would result in the building up of new industries, and that the reclamation of the fertile bottom lands of the Tennessee river, in which farming is now prevented by floods, would make agriculture profitable, thereby drawing people from the cities and reducing of unemployment. The day following the president's message, a bill embodying his suggestions was introduced in the Senate by Senator Norris of Nebraska, who has waged a long campaign for government operation of Muscle Shoals. A similar bill was also being drafted in the House.

Beer and Business

Merchants and newspapers in a number of cities reported that there was noticeable improvement in business on and after April 7, the day on which it became legal to sell 3.2 per cent beer. Newspapers point to the many advertisements they carried, not only from establishments manufacturing or selling beer, but from other business concerns as well. There was a tremendous demand for the new non-intoxicating beer wherever it was sold. It is estimated that the federal government reaped a revenue of no less than \$10,000,000 from the sale of beer during the first few days. City and state governments profited as well.

Counter Protest

Chancellor Hitler of Germany has vigorously criticized the United States, because large numbers of citizens in this country have protested against the treatment of German Jews by the Hitlerites. Mr. Hitler declares that we are the last ones who should criticize other nations for racial discrimination, as our immigration laws are the most severe in the world, and as we have virtually placed a ban upon orientals coming to this country to live. "Nor is America ready now to open its doors to Jews 'fleeing from Germany,'" says Mr. Hitler.

Change of Mind

When President Roosevelt appointed Homer Cummings as United States attor-

ney-general to fill the vacancy left open by the late Senator Thomas J. Walsh (who before his death had been appointed attorney-general), it was generally thought that his appointment would be only temporary. The reason for this belief was that Mr. Cummings had already been given the governor-generalship of the Philippine Islands. But Mr. Cummings has been of such valuable assistance during the banking crisis that President Roosevelt decided to ask him to accept the office permanently. Mr. Cummings' Philippine post has been given to Mayor Frank Murphy of Detroit, Michigan. He was a staunch supporter of Mr. Roosevelt during the presidential campaign; and it is said that he has been in close touch with Philippine affairs for several years.

Naval Program

Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee is urging a large naval construction program to bring the navy up to the London treaty limits. His proposal calls for the building of thirty vessels, at a total cost of \$230,000,000. Three years would be taken to complete the task. Mr. Vinson says that President Roosevelt is impressed with his proposed construction program because it would provide considerable work to the unemployed. Mr. Roosevelt, however, has not officially expressed himself on the matter.

First Two States

Two states—Michigan and Wisconsin—have ratified the congressional bill for repeal of the eighteenth amendment. Michigan took the lead when on April 3, the voters of that state elected a huge majority of "wet" delegates to a repeal convention. The following day Wisconsin voters took similar action in voting for repeal, but made it even more overwhelming by electing an entire "wet" delegation to their state convention. In addition to Michigan and Wisconsin, sixteen other states have fixed dates for election of delegates to repeal conventions this year, and seventeen others are expected to follow suit.

World Court Decision

On July 10, 1931, Norway occupied Greenland and declared her sovereignty over that northern country. Denmark had been in possession of the territory before, so she appealed to the World Court for justice. The Court announced its decision last week. By a vote of 12 to 2 it decided in favor of Denmark. Norway was naturally terribly disappointed at the result of the decision; in fact, parliament adjourned the following day because of the widespread gloom among its members. But the government issued a statement declaring that Norway was one of the first countries to join the World Court and she could be depended upon to respect the Court's decision. Thus, another step in the advancement of arbitration as a means of settling international disputes has been taken.

Making Strides

State laws calling for old age pensions are making rapid headway. Five states have abandoned the poorhouse system and replaced it by the pension plan since the first of this year. These five—Oregon, North Dakota, Arizona, Indiana and Washington—bring the total to 22. Several other state legislatures have bills to this effect before them. Furthermore, there is a bill now pending in Congress which, if passed, would provide federal aid to states which have adopted old age pensions. The bill is thought to have a good chance of passage because President Roosevelt has frequently advocated the pension plan and the Democratic party platform calls for this method of dealing with the aged poor.

Secession

On April 8 the state of Western Australia voted to secede from the union of five states which comprise the commonwealth of Australia. The movement for withdrawal had been developing for several years, so the outcome of the re-

cent referendum came as no surprise. The main grievance of the Western Australians is that the four other states, which are mostly industrial, are in control of politics and have imposed high tariffs which are injurious to an agricultural state such as Western Australia is. This act of secession, however, is thought to be no more than a protest, for there are no constitutional means by which any state may withdraw from the commonwealth. The seriousness with which the Western Australians are taking the matter, though, may impress upon the other states the necessity of effecting a compromise with their angered sister state. Although Western Australia has less than one-twentieth of the total population of the commonwealth, it is by far the largest state in area.

Joint Action?

Lieutenant Colonel von Papen, vice-chancellor of Germany, arrived in Rome on April 9 for two purposes. For one thing he held conversations with Pope Pius XI in an effort to obtain the cooperation of the Roman Catholic Church with Fascism in Germany in combating Communism. The pope was believed to have looked with favor upon von Papen's mission, for he is firmly convinced that Communism is a serious threat to religion. But he was also known to have made it clear that the German Fascists could not expect the support of the Catholic Church against Communism, until the Hitlerites discontinued their persecutions against the Jewish population. An agreement was thought to be in sight on this issue.

The second purpose of von Papen's visit to Rome was to hold preliminary conversations with Premier Mussolini so as to pave the way for the forthcoming conference between Adolf Hitler and the Italian dictator, which will take place shortly.

Not So Easy

A Manchukuoan army, fostered by Japan, received the surprise of its life last week when it attempted to seize more Chinese territory. Here is the story, according to foreign reports: Japan has, of late, coveted the Lwan river and its valley, because this river is the principal water outlet from Southern Jehol, the region recently taken over by the Japanese. As the Lwan valley is near to British coal mines, the Japanese thought it best to send Manchukuoan troops into the territory, so that Japan would not be involved if the plan did not work out smoothly. But when the Manchukuoan troops arrived at the scene they were met by large numbers of Chinese soldiers and completely driven back to the position whence they had come. Now, however, the Japanese regular troops are said to be preparing to advance into the Lwan valley region and heavy fighting is anticipated. British marines have been sent to that territory in order to protect their countrymen's interests.

Insured Savings

A bill providing "100 per cent insurance" for bank deposits soon will be introduced in both houses of Congress. Senator Glass and Representative Steagall are jointly sponsoring the measure, and it has the full support of President Roosevelt. The object of the bill is to give people complete assurance that when they place their money in banks it will be safe. The experience of the last ten years, during which time 10,000 banks have failed, has convinced the Roosevelt administration that confidence cannot be fully restored until bank deposits are guaranteed. Of course, under this arrangement, there will have to be created a large sum of money which can be drawn upon to cover losses when a bank fails. This money is to be raised in part by placing a charge upon every bank included in the plan.

The preliminary draft of the Glass-Steagall bank-guaranty bill includes only member banks of the Federal Reserve System, leaving out of the plan all state banks. If this measure is enacted, it will probably mean that either the state banks will be forced to join the Federal Reserve System,

or that they will have to guarantee their depositors' money. For otherwise they could not compete with national banks, as the great majority of people would place their money in banks where they knew it would be safe. Therefore, many believe that if the bill becomes law it will, by forcing state banks to join the Federal Reserve System, be the beginning of a unified national banking system. Of course the bank guaranty feature would not alone eliminate the weaknesses in our banking structure, and the Glass-Steagall bill includes a number of other proposals for banking reform. These we will discuss when the measure is debated in Congress.

Narcotics Treaty

With ratification by the necessary 26 nations announced at Geneva April 10, three days before expiration of the time limit, the 1931 International Narcotics Treaty went into effect, setting up at Geneva a Permanent Narcotics Control Commission with power to regulate world manufacture and trade in narcotic drugs. This establishes a new precedent in international relations and has been fought for years not only by the great chemical manufacturing interests, but as an infringement of national sovereignty. The United States was among the first countries to ratify, and the past month saw a rush of fourteen nations to sign up before April 13, when the treaty would have become a dead letter.

New Partnership

The Pan-American Airways, which is the only aviation company operating commercial planes throughout North and South America, has acquired 45 per cent of the stock of the China National Aviation Corporation. As the Chinese government owns the remaining shares of stock in this corporation, a partnership has been established between the American company and the government of China. This move is expected to give America a commanding position on the key airways of the world and may be of aid in backing this country's bid for a greater share of Far Eastern trade and commerce. Moreover, plans are already under way to join the American system with the Chinese airways by way of Alaska, Bering Strait and Siberia.

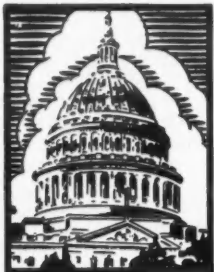
A Real Complication

The Senate has passed a bill introduced by Senator Black of Alabama establishing throughout the nation a thirty-hour workweek. It provides that goods produced in establishments which have longer hours may not be carried in interstate commerce. The House has withheld action on the bill until President Roosevelt expresses his opinion of it. He is seriously studying the measure and is mainly concerned with the foreign complications brought up by the Senate bill. It has made no provision for the restriction of foreign goods shipped in interstate commerce. Therefore, products made in countries with a lower standard of living could seriously compete with our manufacturers who would be forced to raise their prices to a certain extent under the thirty-hour week arrangement. On the other hand, if the bill forbid the shipment of foreign goods from one state to another, unless those goods had been produced by laborers working not more than thirty hours per week, this would amount virtually to an embargo, because no other country is on the thirty-hour week schedule. And as President Roosevelt advocates a lowering of all tariff barriers, he is naturally not in favor of an embargo against foreign products. But Mr. Roosevelt would like to see a shorter workweek adopted as a means of spreading employment, so he is considering all possibilities looking toward this goal.

French Propaganda

Deciding that a more favorable impression of France should exist abroad, particularly in the United States, the French Chamber of Deputies voted an appropriation of over a million dollars for propaganda purposes. The French hope, that by spreading information on a larger scale, foreigners may come to have a better opinion of them. It is believed in France that an unfortunate attitude has developed toward the country since the war. This is held to be due to the fact that France enjoys such a predominant position on the European continent that she cannot help making enemies. Hence, the appropriation for propaganda.

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As the Editor Sees It

I HAVE never known a time when it was so hard to perform satisfactorily the task which we set for ourselves in the publication of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. Our aim is to present a picture of the state of things in our country and the world, showing events and movements in proper perspective. This is a relatively easy thing to do when the picture changes but slightly from week to week. It is a very hard thing to do when the scenes shift with such amazing rapidity as they have done during the last few weeks. Seldom, if ever, in American history have there been such abrupt reversals of policy, such sweeping developments on so many fronts—political, economic, international. One must be alert and observant these days in order to keep up with the galloping procession of events.

Let us glance a moment at this changing picture. The agricultural program of the government is astounding in its boldness. The government, it appears, is actually to undertake to become responsible for farm prices. It is doing another revolutionary thing in guaranteeing the loans on farms and city homes. It is setting out to furnish employment to those who are without work, by raising a great peacetime army. A quarter of a million men are marching to the forests. Perhaps millions more are to find employment in other governmental undertakings. The administration is seriously considering such a revolutionary measure as the establishment throughout the country of the thirty-hour week—of establishing this limitation of working hours by law. A little while ago that would have been considered a breath-taking proposal. Direct relief is to be given by the federal government. Hundreds of millions of dollars will go to those who are in distress—a smashing reversal of policy. The federal administrative departments are being completely reorganized, a job which has been talked about for a generation, but which has not before been accomplished. The operating expenses of the government are being cut by about a billion dollars—a feat which few people had thought possible. Leading statesmen of the world are invited to Washington to listen to proposals for world coöperation as a substitute for that economic nationalism which has stifled

world trade. There has been a revolution in Germany this spring, and it is accepted as such. The republic has been overthrown, and a dictatorship has been established. Yet this dictatorship has not instituted changes in German economic policy comparable to those which are being quietly effected by the new administration at Washington.

Where will these revolutionary changes lead us? Are they in the right direction? Will they take us to safety or greater danger? That is a question which no one can answer with complete assurance. A spirit of confidence prevails in Washington. It appears to be shared by the people of the nation. But whether or not the new policies now being undertaken will lead us to safety, this consideration must be kept in mind: We are not assured of safety if we do not act drastically. To stand still is to invite continued disaster. It may not be safe to experiment. It certainly is not safe *not* to experiment. We know that if the government is inactive in the face of the agricultural crisis, the mortgage crisis, the unemployment crisis, the foreign trade crisis, we will unquestionably slip deeper and deeper into depression. If those in charge of the government wait until they can find solutions sure to work, they will wait forever, or until conditions become catastrophic. There appears nothing, then, to do but to make experiments, cautiously and yet courageously. That is what the administration is doing, and to this date the people of the country are giving calm and hopeful support.

WHY should the government be dismissing its employees as a measure of economy, while at the same time it is expanding its activities in other directions by taking on other employees? Why is it cutting down its regular routine operations while instituting extraordinary operations in order to give work to the jobless? Such is the question which I undertook to answer on this page three weeks ago. I have referred to it briefly since. I am coming back to the subject again because the matter is somewhat complicated. The answer to the question is so well stated by the *Baltimore Sun* that I am quoting the editorial at some length:

Some people are confused by what they regard as contradictions in the courses followed by the Roosevelt Administration in finance. They note that large cuts in Federal operating expenses, such as those in the Veterans' Bureau and in Federal salaries, are accompanied by large new outlays and drafts upon the Federal credit, such as those involved in the provision for \$500,000,000 in relief grants to the States and the guaranteeing of the interest on \$2,000,000,000 in bonds for use in refinancing farm mortgages, with a similar guarantee to be provided for home-loan refinancing. And some observers conclude that these operations tend to offset each other so far as any basic readjustment in the Federal financial position is concerned.

While it is true that plans already announced contemplate a large draft upon the Federal credit, that draft is being made with the regular operating budget of the Federal Government in better condition than it has been since the beginning of the depression; and under conditions where it is subject

to quick control without demoralizing the basic governmental services. So long as the Federal Treasury was running far into the red to meet regular operating expenses there was a draft on the Federal credit which was largely out of control. With those operating expenses brought into approximate balance with revenues, the use of Federal credit for rehabilitation projects not only becomes more surely feasible but is subject to flexibility and quick adjustment in accordance with conditions.

It seems clear enough that, having made enormous strides toward the protection of its credit by moves to balance the regular operating budget, the Roosevelt Administration intends to draw upon it liberally to finance projects designed for economic rehabilitation. The forwarding to Congress of legislation to proceed to the development of Muscle Shoals is another step pointing clearly in that direction. But such undertakings will be under conditions far more auspicious than they would be, had not the regular operating budget of the Government been brought a long distance toward a balance. And the policy will be carried forward under conditions where the outlays will be capable of direction to the national interest, as opposed to the interest of special groups whose drafts upon the Treasury accounted, in large part, for the lopsided condition of the Federal budget.

IT WOULD be hard to overestimate the importance of the conferences which President Roosevelt is to have with Prime Minister MacDonald of Great Britain, former Premier Herriot of France, and representatives of the other nations. These conversations will be as significant as the World Economic Conference scheduled to be held in London some time later. The president and the foreign representatives will pave the way for that conference. They will try to reach agreements among themselves. If these agreements are reached satisfactorily, the World Economic Conference, when it meets, will have little more to do than to give formal approval to what has been decided upon at Washington. If, however, the president and his visitors cannot come to terms on matters of world economic policy, there is little hope of agreement on vital questions when the more formal discussions occur in London.

For several years each nation has been trying to save itself economically. The people of every country have had the notion that they should sell as much as possible to foreigners and buy as little as possible from beyond their borders. They have tried to make themselves self-sufficient. They have erected tariff walls about their lands, and have established other trade barriers so that it has been ever more difficult to carry on international trade.

This policy has had disastrous consequences. It has almost stopped the flow of goods from one country to the other. There are many industries in each country which have grown up dependent upon export trade. They have expanded because they could sell part of their products abroad. When they can no longer sell these products to other countries, when each other country closes the door to them, they collapse, throw their employees out of work, and contribute to the deepening depression. This is what has happened to American agriculture, to the American automobile industry, to the British coal trade, to the industries of every nation in the world. The British have raised the cry "Buy British." In the United States we hear the slogan "Buy American." The people of every land are trying to buy at home and sell abroad, and the thing simply will not work. The result is trade stagnation, unemployment, world chaos.

The United States must bear a large share of responsibility for the development of this practice of economic nationalism. Now the government announces a reversal of policy. It proposes that America shall lead the way toward international economic coöperation, toward the breaking down of trade barriers, toward the de-



JUST A TOUCH OF SPRING FEVER

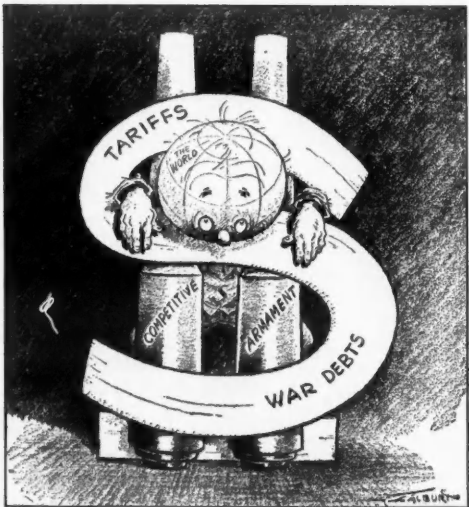
—Brown in N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE

velopment of the old practice of selling and buying across national borders more freely. It will try to negotiate agreements with other nations, providing that they shall let down the bars which prevent the purchase by their people of American products, and in return it will let down the bars which prevent our people from buying foreign products. The president will ask, and probably secure, the consent of Congress to make such agreements. He will then discuss the subject with the foreign representatives who are coming to Washington.

Along with the discussion of trade will come a consideration of the war debts. Our debtors will undertake to show how the payment of the debts will interfere with trade and with the restoration of world prosperity. It should not be hard for them to establish their case and to secure a reduction of debts in return for trade concessions.

THE thirty-hour workweek bill introduced by Senator Black of Alabama and passed by the Senate raises an interesting constitutional question. It does not demand outright that factories and other business establishments shall operate but five days a week and six hours a day. It could not do that, for Congress is not given the power by the Constitution to regulate the conditions of labor. That is left to the states. Congress is given the power, however, to regulate commerce between the states. The Black bill, accordingly, provides that goods produced in establishments which operate more than five days a week or more than six hours a day, may not be carried in interstate commerce. They may not be shipped from one state to another. If the House of Representatives passes the bill and it becomes a law, employers of labor will practically be forced to follow the terms of the law, for few of them can operate if their products cannot be shipped across state lines.

It may be that this act, if it became a law, will be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. When Congress, in 1916, passed a law forbidding the shipment in interstate commerce of goods produced by child labor, the Supreme Court held the act unconstitutional, declaring that it was not essentially an act regulating commerce but one regulating conditions of employment and that such action did not fall within the powers of Congress under the commerce clause. This decision, however, which was rendered in 1918, was made by a vote of five justices to four. Only three of the nine justices who took part in that decision are still on the court. Friends of the bill think it quite likely that the Supreme Court as now constituted might accept the reasoning of the minority of the court in the child labor decision and might declare the shorter workweek bill constitutional.—W. E. M.



PILLORIED

—Talbot in Washington NEWS

WITH AUTHORS AND EDITORS

We read old books for their excellence, but new ones to share in the mental life of our time.—SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE.

Recent Books

REVOLUTION: 1776. By John Hyde Preston. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. \$2.90.

The author tells the story of the American Revolution by presenting a series of pictures of persons, places and events—pictures which are so vivid and so definite as to give the reader the impression that he is witnessing the great drama itself. We know of no other history which recreates a period so effectively. Perhaps we can best suggest the style and the power of this writer to our readers by quoting the first two paragraphs of the book:

The morning of June 9, 1768, was quiet in the town of Boston. The sunlight was thick and bright against the red-brick houses, and all window shutters to the east were closed to keep the heavy draperies from fading. From kitchen chimneys drab wood smoke curled indolently to heaven. Pigs snooted in the gutters. Down in the harbor the water was clear blue under an easy sky, and the tall sails of vessels were white against the blue above and about, under this pleasant sun.

Not far out on the waters of the harbor, rolling sleepily in the tide, His Majesty's warship *Romney*, fifty guns, lay at anchor. Above her furlled sails the red and blue emblem of the British Empire flapped against the mast. Sailors in bright uniforms moved about on deck and polished bits of brass. Other men, in brighter uniforms, with finely powdered hair, sat on hatchways or straddled the long guns, lit pipes, and joked among themselves. All was laziness; all was peace. There was nothing to do, nothing to think about. A roving colonial commission was a bore. Their only job was to keep the *Romney* anchored there, a solitary sentinel at the gates of the sea, a guardian of the laws and order of his Imperial and Most Divine Majesty, George III of Great Britain.

There are many writers capable of scattering a page of that kind here and there through a narrative, but where else can a history be found of which it can be said that such paragraphs are typical? Fine prose, dramatic power and sustained interest mark this most unusual volume. Students who do not like history should try "Revolution: 1776" as a tonic.

THE BOOK OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS. By Esse V. Hathaway. New York: McGraw-Hill Company. \$2.50.

This is a book full of information, not particularly critical but nevertheless interesting, about American presidents. There are thirty chapters, each of which furnishes a biographical sketch of one of our chief executives. These chapters tell of

the early experiences of the presidents, of their families, of their educational advantages, of their work in school, of their occupational lives. It also discusses a number of the problems with which each had to deal and undertakes to analyze the personal characteristics of each.

WILD WINGS. By Julie Closson Kenly. New York: D. Appleton Company. \$2.50.

It often takes just one good book to awaken the reader's interest in a subject to which he had not been particularly attracted before. "Wild Wings" is, we think, that sort of book. It is, as the title indicates, a story about birds, about the part they play in the world of nature, their habits, their exciting experiences. For instance, the chapter entitled "Flying Police" explains how the birds patrol their individual beats—ground, grass and sky—keeping down other species, such as insects, which, according to nature's plan, need to be checked. Another chapter called "Brigands of the Air" tells how eagles make slaves out of fish hawks. The unsuspecting hawk will swoop down into the water, catch a fish, and then the watchful eagle will compel the hawk to turn over its prey. Those readers who shun nature stories will, by turning over a new leaf, engage themselves in several hours of exceedingly delightful entertainment by reading "Wild Wings."

TEACHING HISTORY IN HIGH SCHOOL. By Mary E. Peck. Book Room, State Teachers' College, Farmville, Virginia. 60 cents.

This booklet of about 100 pages is prepared by an experienced teacher primarily for teachers of history, but it should prove equally valuable to a student of history. It suggests specific objectives to be attained by courses dealing with the different historical periods and for classes of the various levels. The outline abounds with practical suggestions as to the best means of realizing the objectives and of maintaining the interest of students. The book should be very helpful to busy teachers and to serious-minded readers of history.

THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY. By R. D. McKenzie. New York: McGraw-Hill Company. \$3.50.

This is one of a series of monographs prepared by the President's Research Com-

mittee on Social Trends, furnishing information for the report of the committee which is entitled "Recent Social Trends in the United States." This particular monograph examines recent population shifts in the United States, especially the drift to cities and suburbs. It considers causes and results of these population developments which are affecting the economic, social and political life of the nation so deeply.

"Fully one half of the people of this country now live within fifty miles of a city of 100,000 or more," we are informed, "and over eighty per cent reside within an hour's motor journey of a city of 25,000 or more." Thus we have passed from the day when America was a rural nation. By far the greater number of Americans now live under influences which are predominantly urban. The book closes with this observation:

In closing this study, perhaps one might be excused for venturing to speculate about probable future developments. It would seem that the general outlines of American settlement pattern are established for years to come. Our great centers of population are not only deeply rooted in the general economic fabric, but an increasing proportion of our people have become socially and culturally conditioned to urban ways of living. It is highly improbable, within the near future at any rate, that any revolutionary changes will occur in population patterning. In all probability our great cities will continue to decentralize in the sense that population and economic functions will become more widely dispersed throughout the metropolitan areas. But it is not likely that there will be any general exodus to the farm. Modern agriculture is closely integrated with our metropolitan system of living. It has developed in response to the growth of city markets and has been subject to the same technological influences that have invaded other forms of industry, as evidenced by the steady decline in the number of workers required to cultivate the land. There will undoubtedly continue to be much interregional shifting of the urban population as the general rate of population growth diminishes and as new industries arise in different parts of the nation.

As our regional communities become more conscious of their common interests, an increasing amount of purposeful planning is likely to ensue. Nor is this planning likely to be restricted to the mere physical aspects of community structure and municipal functions. It will, in all probability, include an increasing range of economic and social activities. The age of extreme and almost unregulated individual competition appears to be nearing a close. If we are going to consider stability and security as essential aspects of wholesome social living, conscious effort must be directed toward regulating competition in the interest of general welfare.

From the Magazines

A BEAM FROM ARCTURUS. By Charles D. Stewart. *The Atlantic Monthly*, March, 1933. For the first time in world history, starlight will be harnessed this summer when the Chicago exposition is opened, not by a button pressed at the White House, but by a beam of light straight from the bright star Arcturus. The energy of the starbeam will be caught in the big telescope at the Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, when Arcturus shines through a little

clear space or window in the top of a quartz bulb. This light strength will be transformed into electrical energy and flashed across wires to Chicago to set the wheels of the exposition moving. It is estimated that the starbeam to be put to work will have taken 40 years to reach the earth, and that therefore, it left Arcturus while the first Chicago World's Fair was in progress in 1893. Arcturus is a

great sun shining by its own light and 40,000 times as brilliant as our own sun. It is calculated by astronomers to be 40 "light years" away from the earth, with light traveling at 386,000 miles a second. "Following along the curve of the handle of the Dipper, the last two stars point out Arcturus about the same distance away as is the North Star from the other end of the Dipper."



AN ILLUSTRATION BY HENRY C. KENLY IN "WILD WINGS"

ORGANIZED ACTION ON

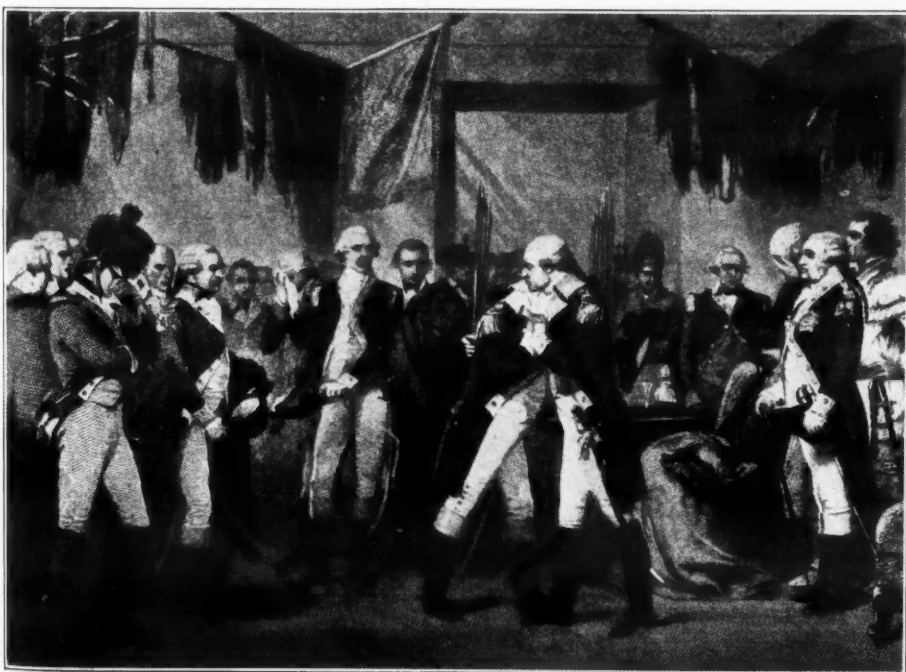
MEDICAL CARE. By Michael M. Davis. *Survey Graphic*, April, 1933. The development of hospitals into community medical centers is already under way in this country and offers a solution for the problem of how to reduce the costs of medical care for 120,000,000 people while providing adequate incomes for about a million doctors and nurses. One thousand American hospitals have already begun supplying office quarters on their own premises for their consulting physicians, and the American Hospital Association in Chicago has adopted the principle of group hospitalization, with moderate annual payments from individuals for hospital care, on a club basis.

STORY: A NEW MAGAZINE

A new magazine has made its appearance to claim the attention of those interested in the short story. It is called *Story* and is devoted exclusively to this type of literature. Many of its stories are by new writers who usually have great difficulty in selling their works to the better-known magazines.

Story has had an interesting career. It was first published in Europe, in Vienna, and later on the Island of Mallorca by Whit Burnett and Martha Foley who were engaged in newspaper work. The editors felt the need of a magazine which should contain the type of short story not ordinarily found in current periodicals. Its success was pronounced. Edward J. O'Brien, who publishes an annual series of "Best Short Stories," chose four stories from the new magazine for his "Best Short Stories of 1931." This was more than he had taken from any one magazine in any year of his seventeen as an anthologist. In 1932 Mr. O'Brien selected eight stories and declared that "Story is the most distinguished short story magazine in the world."

Such a record could not escape the attention of Americans interested in the short story as a form of artistic expression. The editors were induced to bring their periodical to the United States and this month it makes its appearance in its new dress. Stories will be found in it by such recognized writers as Manuel Komroff, Conrad Aiken and Kay Boyle, as well as by a number of comparatively unknown writers. The magazine appears every two months and sells for fifty cents a copy. It is published in New York City. It deserves support particularly since it encourages young and new writers.



—From a painting by Alonzo Chappell

WASHINGTON TAKING LEAVE OF HIS OFFICERS

"Henry Knox stepped up and grasped his hand; then with tears rolling down his fat cheeks, he flung himself into Washington's arms and hugged him. One by one the other officers came up and embraced their old commander in silent farewell."—From "Revolution: 1776."



THROUGHOUT the course of American history there have been numerous movements in this country in behalf of oppressed and persecuted peoples in other

**Attitude
Toward
Oppression**

lands. Tales of wanton cruelty against minority groups have always found a sympathetic ear in the United States. The latest development in this long series of protests is the rallying of American Jews and their friends to the cause of German Jewry, the ruthless persecution of which constitutes one of the most flagrant cases of organized oppression in modern times. Details of the Hitler attacks on German Jews, Communists, Socialists, Republicans, Catholics and other dissenting groups are given elsewhere in this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. It is our purpose here to treat the historical background of movements on the part of Americans to put an end to racial, religious and political oppression elsewhere in the world.

From the earliest days of the republic, the American people have been imbued with the principles of liberty, democracy and the protection of individual rights. While the government has been obliged to pursue a course of caution in dealing with foreign governments lest it be accused of meddling in the internal affairs of other nations and thus become embroiled in unpleasant diplomatic difficulties, the American people, or large groups of them, have always recoiled at the sight of wholesale oppression anywhere. They have been prompt to sponsor the cause of those whose rights have been infringed upon. They have shown their displeasure in a number of ways—by direct protests to the governments, by financial assistance, by editorial attacks on the autocratic practices, by the boycotting of the country guilty of brutality, or by offering shelter to the oppressed in this country.

In the early period of our history, the government itself was able directly to help the downtrodden by opening the gates of the United States to them. America became known as the Western Land of Promise, the haven of the oppressed. Nowhere has this American ideal been better expressed than on the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, the inscription on which beckons to foreign countries to "send us your masses yearning to be free."

Less than ten years after they had won their independence from Great Britain, Americans had an opportunity to express sympathy for a people struggling against an autocratic and inept government. At the storming of the Bastille in Paris, the American people, and many officials of the government, favored the cause of the revolutionists. They clamored for our active participation in the French people's struggle for "liberty, equality and fraternity." But as the people became more familiar with the actual state of affairs—the cold-blooded guillotining of French aristocrats, the complete

American Attitude on Race Oppression

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

loss of sanity and the general terror—the early ardor cooled down and there grew a feeling that the American government should keep "hands off." Very wisely, the government, under Washington, refused to accede to the wishes of the radical elements and declined to have anything to do with the emissary of the French revolutionists, Charles Genet, when he came to this country to elicit the official sympathy and support of the new nation.

In a practical way, the United States helped the oppressed peoples of Europe throughout the entire nineteenth century by offering them a refuge safe from persecution. During the revolutionary movements which swept over Europe in 1848 and 1849, thousands of leaders and participants in the thwarted uprisings flocked to the shores of America where they were insured freedom and protection. From Germany came such men as Carl Schurz and Franz Sigel and other "men of '48" who later exercised an important influence upon American politics.

In the case of the Hungarian revolution of 1849 during which the Hungarian rebels, led by the fiery orator, Louis Kossuth, declared their independence from the Hapsburgs of Vienna, the United States government was actively sympathetic—in fact, so sympathetic that it almost became involved in an unfortunate affair with the Austrian government. Daniel Webster, then secretary of state, in a public declaration, lauded the virtues of a republican form of government and blusteringly jibed the reigning house of Austria by stating: "The power of this republic, at the present moment, is spread over a region, one of the richest and most fertile on the globe, and of an extent in comparison with which the possessions of the House of Hapsburg are but a patch on the earth's surface."

**European
Revolutions of
1848 and 1849**

But when the exiled Kossuth came to this country in an attempt to obtain financial and political support for the cause he was sponsoring, the government wisely refrained from committing acts which would have further strained its relations with Austria. The American people, however, were back of Kossuth and Hungarian independence and Kossuth was received everywhere with open arms and open purses.

The latter part of the last century witnessed a great influx of Jews from the shores of European countries. Before the bars against immigration were raised, Jewish people, encountering persecution in Russia and other European nations, flocked to this country and took up their abodes, started businesses, and adjusted themselves to their newly adopted home.

Prior to the outbreak of war between the United States and Spain, there was a wave of sympathy for the oppressed peoples of Cuba and other Spanish possessions. When General Weyler was sent from Spain to suppress the insurrection which broke out in Cuba in 1895, a storm of protest arose in this country. The barbarous tactics of the Spaniards, such as the imprisoning of large sections of the civilian population in "reconcentration camps," although brutal enough, were greatly exaggerated in the American newspapers which were clamoring for a declaration of war.

In their platforms of 1896, both the Republican and Democratic parties inserted planks expressing sympathy for the persecuted Cubans, the Republicans going even further by including the Armenians. No doubt, a great deal of idealism was behind the movement—the same sort of idealism that has always placed the bulk of Americans on the side of the people seeking their independence. But, as a matter of fact, other elements of the population merely sought to exploit

**Spanish-
American
War**

this idealism in order to advance their own selfish purposes. They concealed their insidious propaganda behind a smoke-screen of lofty sentiment and genuine altruism. These were the big business interests which had been on the alert for years, pegging away at imperial expansion as a means of enhancing their personal fortunes. Such a devious route was the only way they had of rousing public opinion to the necessity of intervention to curb the Spanish atrocities against a helpless people. James Truslow Adams, in his "The March of Democracy," expresses this prevailing attitude in the following manner:

The average American seldom has very accurate knowledge of conditions in foreign lands or clear notions of the difficulties as well as the abuses, real or seeming, of administration in them, but for reasons already suggested, it is always easy to rouse our sympathy for any people which appears to be struggling for its liberty. We also have a rather naïve belief that all peoples and races are capable of orderly self-government, a belief scarcely lessened at all by our insistence that the Filipinos are not.

Since the World War, there have been numerous instances of American protests against persecution of minority groups. The idealism which plunged us into the universal conflict "to make the world safe for democracy" has permeated most of these movements. The razing of churches and the inflicting of tortures upon Christians in Russia by the Soviet government, the attempts to convert that entire nation to atheism, were met with stern protests in the United States. Organized religion in this country united in protesting against the policies of the Soviets. Protest meetings, similar to those which have been held to demonstrate disapproval of the Hitlerite acts, were staged by churches throughout the nation. The persecution of and discrimination against Catholics in Mexico, the cruelty administered to Liberians, the unfair oppression against minority peoples in various countries of Europe—all these and other instances of racial, religious, and political injustices have been protested by liberal American journals, sympathetic citizens and various humanitarian organizations.

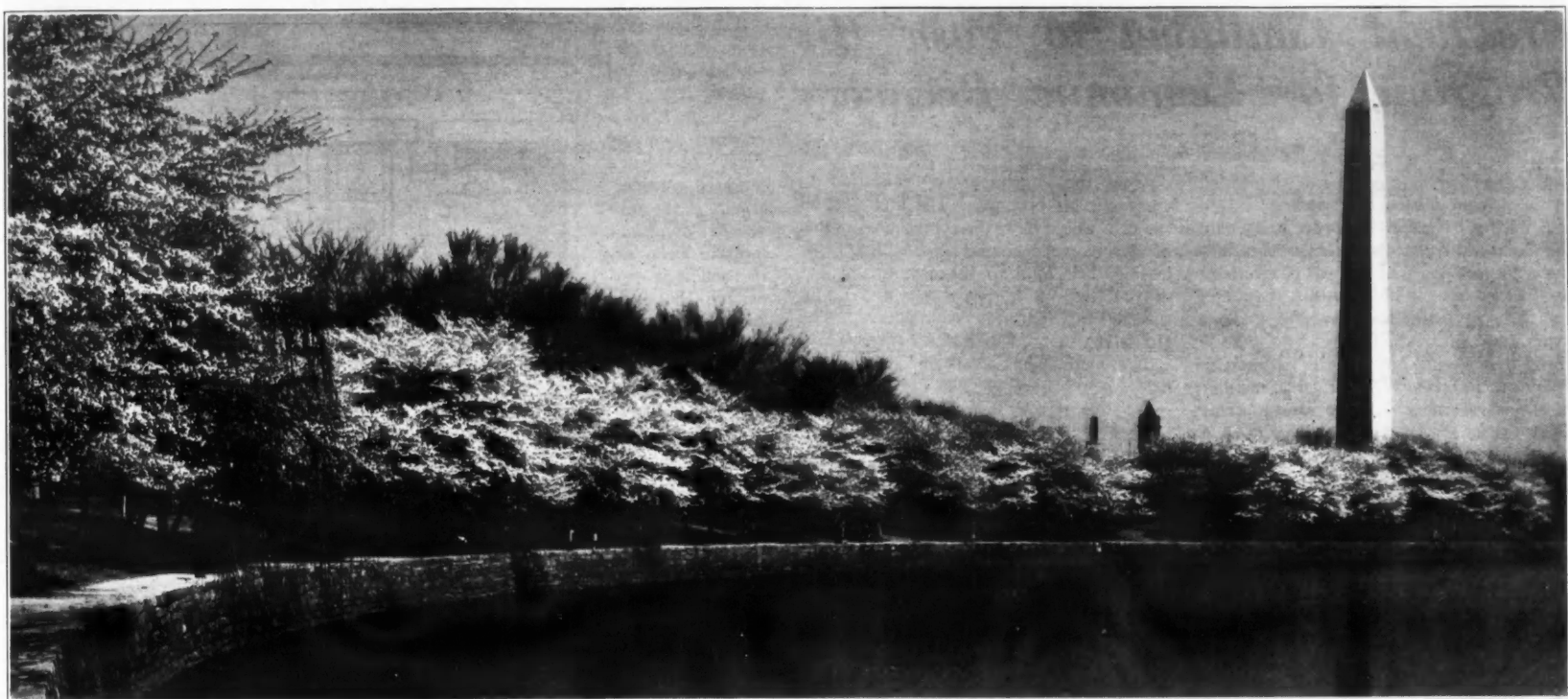
In order effectively to help the Jews in Germany, American Jews have petitioned the United States government to adopt a more lenient immigration policy. A realistic suggestion as to a course for the American government and the American people to pursue in the present German situation has been made by the Nation:

But the administration in Washington should adopt the most liberal and most humane interpretation possible under our statutes, facilitate the granting of visas, and consider even a brief modification of the law, if necessary, to permit the entry of the German victims of political persecution. Meanwhile, the economic plight of such refugees should have the earnest attention of organized groups. For although America has in some ways retrogressed since the days of Jefferson, when political liberty had a real meaning, that priceless heritage has still been preserved here to a greater degree than in all but half a dozen nations.



SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN IDEAL—THE STATUE OF LIBERTY
"Send us your masses yearning to be free."

© Ewing Galloway



"WASHINGTON BECOMES A SHOW PLACE WHEN, IN THE EARLY SPRING, THESE JAPANESE CHERRY TREES ARE IN FULL BLOOM." © Harris & Ewing

Notes on a Number of Things

CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME

"When will the cherry trees bloom?" That question is on the lips of residents of Washington and of prospective visitors to the national capital each year when the grass begins to grow and when the first shimmer of green returns to the trees. For Washington becomes a show place when, in the early spring, these Japanese cherry trees which line the banks of the Tidal Basin are in full bloom. Thousands of visitors from all parts of the nation come to the capital at the cherry blossom season. Sometimes the blossoms come at the last of March; sometimes just past the middle of April. This year the trees were in full bloom on Sunday, the ninth, just a week before Easter. And on that day it is estimated that 100,000 persons enjoyed the fairyland view of lacy whiteness reflected in the still waters of the little artificial arm of the Potomac known as the Basin.

These trees were brought from Japan through the interest in them expressed by Mrs. William Howard Taft. At about the time that she became the first lady of the land, she conceived the idea of decorating the Basin with a fringe of Japanese cherry trees. A prominent Japanese visiting this country, Dr. Jokichi Takamine, made arrangements for the shipment of 3,000 trees to be planted in Potomac Park. This was in 1909. The first shipment of trees had to be destroyed because dangerous plant insects were found among them. They were later replaced by healthy specimens, and the trees which are today a source of pride to the nation were planted in 1911. They have now reached a considerable size, but it is said that they are not more than half grown. The blossoms are a pinkish-white. Some misunderstanding may arise from the name "cherry," however, for the trees do not bear fruit.

WHITE HOUSE INFORMALITY

Two of the Sunday visitors to Potomac Park were President and Mrs. Roosevelt. They drove out quite informally, as they frequently do. They were in an open car, with Mrs. Roosevelt at the wheel and with two secret service men in the rumble seat, a position in the car sometimes occupied by Mrs. Roosevelt in her drives about Washington.

Mrs. Roosevelt, by the way, goes about walking or driving with a minimum of formality. A few days ago it was announced that she would be a guest of the Women's City Club at five o'clock tea.

By Observer

As the hour arrived a number of spectators gathered on the sidewalk outside the building to see the first lady arrive. Some of the onlookers missed the coveted glimpse, however, since they were watching for one of the official White House Lincoln limousines. Instead, an unimpressive-looking car of some years' service, moving along in line with nondescript vehicles of all sorts, came unostentatiously to the curb and deposited Mrs. Roosevelt, as scores of other guests had been deposited. Tall, neat, unassuming, smiling, she was cordially acclaimed. It seems likely that she will become a familiar figure about Washington and that her popularity will be maintained.

ROOSEVELT ENJOYS IT

Theater-goers in Washington had a sensation, a few nights ago, such as they had not experienced for several years—they saw the president of the United States at the theater. President Wilson was a great theater-goer. Scarcely a week passed without his being in attendance at one of the theaters. Sometimes, when the bills were particularly good, he would visit two or three of the theaters in the week. He was quite regular in his visits to Keith's, which at that time maintained a first-class vaudeville. He not only went to the theater, but he enjoyed it. He laughed heartily and was not niggardly in his evidences of appreciation. His presence always inspired the actors and thrilled the audience.

President Coolidge attended the theater sometimes, but did not enjoy it. He always appeared to be bored and frequently left long before the final fall of the curtain. President Hoover did not go to the theater at all. President Roosevelt goes and likes it—another evidence of the return of something like the Wilsonian spirit.

When presidents attend dinners as honor guests, they frequently stay for but a short time. They give perhaps a brief, perfunctory address and then retire. President Roosevelt did not follow such a procedure when, a short time ago, he attended a dinner of the National Press Club. He arrived at seven-thirty, sat through the dinner, laughing and talking, listened with eager attention to the program, gave a short talk, remained for further numbers and requested John Charles Thomas to sing again "Home on the Range," which he had sung earlier in the evening. The president stayed until the evening was

over at eleven o'clock. He seems to enjoy life to the full, which accounts, perhaps, for his apparent freshness and vigor, despite the grinding burdens of recent weeks.

A DAY IN CONGRESS

A Scene in the House of Representatives, April 6: A number of representatives rise to speak on a variety of subjects, asking unanimous consent for permission to address the House. Mr. Snell, minority leader, says: "Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object to unanimous consent, although I do not intend to do so. I want it understood that there is to be no further business to be brought before the House today. Of course, if the majority leader wants to keep people here to allow someone to talk, that is quite satisfactory to me, but it should be understood that no other business is to be brought up. Is that correct?" Mr. Byrns, the majority leader, replies: "There will be no other business as far as I am concerned. If gentlemen want to talk and others want to remain here to listen to them, I shall have no objection." Representative Blanton of Texas finally gets the floor, makes an attack upon Communists. About twenty-five representatives are in their seats. None of them seem to be listening. Shortly thereafter the House adjourns.

Scene in the Senate, Same Day: About half the senators in their seats. Debate proceeds on Senator Black's bill for a thirty-hour week. Costigan of Colorado and Clark of Missouri speak forcefully for the measure. Frequent interruption by senators who ask questions or interject remarks. Two amendments to the measure quickly voted down. Senators walk in and out, some of them engaging in conversation on the floor. Senator Long of Louisiana conspicuous as, with his hands deep in his pockets, he strides across the hall in something resembling a swagger.

THIS MAN HERRIOT

Inasmuch as former Premier Edouard Herriot of France is to be in America soon as a representative of his nation to confer with President Roosevelt, this little sketch, picked up from the anonymous "Not to Be Repeated," may be interesting:

Edouard Herriot laid a firm foundation for lasting fame by the reparation settlement of Lausanne. Whatever its ultimate fate, it will take its place in history with Locarno and Geneva, monuments to the genius of Briand. Herriot was one of the first Frenchmen to

THOUGHTS AND SMILES

Jud Tunkins says international finance is reminding a lot of people that there are a lot of things harder to understand even than contract bridge. —Washington Star

Americanism: Electing men with minds no better than yours; expecting office to expand their brains instead of their heads. —Los Angeles Times

A game of dominoes which lasted for four years has just been completed in Canyon, Texas. Chess players in that town doubtless bequeath the games to their heirs. —Chicago Daily News

"Since we are compelled to dwell together," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "it is hard to understand how a man can hope to benefit himself by injuring a neighbor." —Washington Star

One of the most delightful things in the world is to introduce one bore to another . . . and then duck. —Collier's

Can there be a more horrible object in existence than an eloquent man not speaking the truth? —Thomas Carlyle

According to a Sunday newspaper you can tell the temperature by listening to a cricket, subtracting forty from the number of its chirps, dividing the result by four and adding fifty to the answer. Another good way is to use a thermometer. —London Punch

PRONUNCIATIONS: Jokichi Takamine (jo-kee'chee tah'kah-mee'ne), Friedrichstrasse (frees'drikh-strahs'se), Hedemannstrasse (hay-da-mahn-strahs'se).

take a business view of reparations. In contrast with Poincaré's policy of using them mainly as a club over Germany, he negotiated and signed the Dawes Plan which took reparations out of politics. Later it was his fortune to achieve a final settlement as well.

In domestic politics, Herriot is handicapped by an oversupply of pathos which often becomes exhibitionistic and embarrasses his hearers. He will place his hand on his heart and orate in pathetic tones about his integrity, his loyalty, his fairness and his multiple other generous virtues. . . .

He is not prepossessing as to physique. An immense abdomen perched in spindly legs, gross features set in a moon face, a head that is much too small for the body. He wears what is left of his hair *en brosse*. His forehead is low, and there is no back to his head at all—it slopes straight from his pompadour to the back of his thick neck. One feels some surprise that he is not wearing an apron, behind the zinc bar of a *bistrot*.

Appearance, however, is deceptive. Herriot is a man of profound literary, artistic and historical culture. He is capable, without notice, of improvising an eloquent speech on almost any aspect of human life, in any country, at any period. His great ambition is to be elected to the French Academy, and he will undoubtedly realize it.

President Continues to Push His Program for Economic Recovery

(Concluded from page 1)

dent and will undoubtedly be recommended to the present session of Congress.

Economy Program. In order to execute the Democratic platform promise to reduce the expenses of the federal government by 25 per cent, the president requested Congress to grant him sweeping powers over the national finances. Congress complied. Acting under this authority, President Roosevelt has issued a number of executive orders reducing various items of expense. He has lopped off more than \$400,000,000 from the compensation paid to veterans of the World War and other wars and has completely reorganized the pension system of the United States government. He has issued an order cutting the salaries and wages of all federal employees by 15 per cent, saving approximately \$150,000,000 in this way. More recently, the president has sent out an order to the heads of departments asking them to run their branches of the government with less money than was provided in the budget passed by the last Congress. It is estimated that this will result in the saving of an additional \$150,000,000.

Furthermore, President Roosevelt has started to reorganize the bureaus, branches and agencies of the government in the interest of economy. All farm credit organizations of the federal government were ordered united into a single unit, the Farm Credit Administration, under the direction of Henry Morgenthau, Jr. This step, it is estimated, will save the government \$2,000,000 annually. In addition, the Departments of Labor and Justice have already begun the pruning process and the Department of Commerce is working out a plan of reorganization in order to save money.

National Prohibition. As a further step in his drive to bring the government's income and outgo into balance, the president urged Congress immediately to modify the Volstead act so as to legalize the manufacture and sale of beer of small alcoholic content. This action was taken by Congress. It is estimated that the government will receive \$150,000,000 a year in revenue from the sale of this legalized beer.

Farm and Job Relief

Farm Relief. The president has tackled this, admittedly one of the most intricate and difficult problems facing the nation today, from two angles. First, he hopes to increase the price of the products sold by the farmer and, second, he wants to reduce the expenses of the farmer. In two special messages to Congress, he requested the enactment of legislation to carry out his program. The first part of the plan would be realized by the reduction of acreage, the farmers to be paid for leasing their land to the government out of proceeds of a special tax on certain specified agricultural commodities. The House has passed this bill.

The second phase of the farm relief program is the refinancing of farm mortgages at a lower rate of interest. The Federal Land banks would be authorized, under the terms of an amendment to the farm bill, to issue \$2,000,000,000 in bonds at 4 per cent interest. These bonds would be given to the holders of farm mortgages in exchange for the mortgages. The farmers would be given new mortgages bearing interest at 4½ per cent annually instead of the 6 or 7 per cent they are now obliged to pay. The government will attempt to scale down the principal of the mortgages by voluntary agreement between the farmers and their creditors.

Unemployment Relief. The president has undertaken to handle this problem in three ways. A part of his plan has already received congressional approval and is now being carried out. In the first place, he has been given authority to recruit a large army of unemployed, estimated at 250,000 men, to work in the national and state forests of the country. This reforestation army is now being enlisted in various parts of the nation, the men are being trained in camps, and, before long, will be sent out to work.

The second part of the plan is direct relief to the states by the federal government. The Senate has passed a bill to appropriate \$500,000,000 to be given in grants to the states for relief of distress and suffering. This policy marks a complete reversal of the relief program of the government since the inception of the depression since the national government has insisted heretofore that all relief needs must be met by the states and cities, the federal government going no further than to lend limited sums.

The third feature of the president's program has not yet been introduced in Congress. It is a program of public works to provide jobs for those in distress. Within a short time, Mr. Roosevelt will recommend to Congress a huge program of public construction, involving probably the expenditure of several billion dollars. In addition, he is prepared to urge the enactment of legislation designed to carry out his Muscle Shoals and Tennessee Valley development projects.

The Black thirty-hour week, six-hour day bill passed by the Senate on April 6 is now receiving the president's serious consideration. If the provisions of this measure were carried out it is estimated that six million idle men and women would be put back to work by spreading out the available work of industry. Mr. Roosevelt recognizes that one of the most fundamental needs of the nation today is the resumption of work and that no recovery from the depression may be hoped for until inroads are made on the number of unemployed. Thus, it is thought that he may place his stamp of approval upon this proposal and request its passage by the House of Representatives.

Stocks and Bonds

Regulation of Securities. In order to curb many of the abuses which have led to heavy losses on worthless stocks and bonds during recent years, the president has requested Congress to enact legislation regulating the security markets of the nation. A bill, carrying out the president's wishes in this matter, has been introduced in Congress. Among other things it provides that before any securities are offered for sale to the investing public a full description of the companies offering them, their assets, and other important information concerning them, shall be placed in the hands of the Federal Trade Commission. In this way, the people would have a definite source of information which would enable them to judge the merits of any given stock or bond before purchasing it. This bill, to be sure, would not prevent people from losing money on the stock market but it would insure them against the dishonest practices of fraudulent brokers and bankers.

Foreign Affairs. While most of his time has been devoted to domestic problems, President Roosevelt has not neglected the foreign field. In order to pave the way for the forthcoming World Economic Conference, he has sent invitations to a number of foreign governments to send representatives to this country to discuss informally the major questions that will come before the world conference. Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald is expected to arrive in this country next week to hold a number of conferences with the president. He will be followed by leading statesmen from most of the nations of Europe, South America and the Far East. Methods by which the channels of international trade may be reopened, currency problems solved, and other world economic questions ironed out will be canvassed in order that substantial agreement may be reached before the convening of the conference itself.



KEEPING THE OLD BOY AT WORK

—Elderman in Washington Post

In the international field, the president is also expected to ask Congress to grant him authority to negotiate tariff treaties with foreign nations. This would follow the lines of the Democratic platform which promised the introduction of reciprocity as a basis for our trade relations with the rest of the world. If such authority is given Mr. Roosevelt, he will be in a position to grant tariff concessions to foreign nations in exchange for a reduction in their import duty rates upon American-exported goods. The president is considering a proposal which would embody an all around 10 per cent cut in tariffs.

Other Measures

Aside from the measures already cited, the legislative machinery for the enactment of which has been set in motion or is expected to be within a very short time, President Roosevelt is considering a number of other matters which he will place before Congress before the end of the present special session. He is working out a plan for the refinancing of city mortgages which, it is thought, will follow the lines of the farm mortgage relief plan. Owners of city real estate would be granted a reduction of interest rates through some plan similar to that of the Federal Land Bank bonds. Then, there is the question of railroad consolidation. Mr. Roosevelt has held a number of conferences with economists and individuals familiar with the transportation problem in order to work out a clear-cut program that will place the railroad system on a sound and efficient footing. What to do about the coal and oil industries is another matter that has been receiving his attention. Rehabilitation programs designed to meet the needs of these industries are expected to form a part of the president's recovery plans.

The parts of the program already put into effect are definitely deflationary in nature; that is, they tend to reduce the purchasing power of the nation and consequently make an increase in prices extremely difficult, if not impossible. The cutting of government expenses to the bone, the suspension of veteran benefits, the discontinuance of certain federal functions—and the withdrawal of money from circulation by keeping certain banks closed—all these steps reduce the amount of money with which people may purchase the products of industry. But, it appears, the president has taken these steps only in order that the government's house might be put in order for the undertaking of a gigantic "reflation" program—a program that will work in the opposite direction and cause an increase in prices.



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